

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the last paragraph on page one to read as follows:

It is known to treat a biomass with acid in order to hydrolyse polysaccharides to the component sugars that can be used in a fermentation process to produce a fermentation product. For instance US-A-4384897 describes a method of treating biomass material in which it is subjected to a two stage hydrolysis in which polysaccharides that are more easily hydrolysed, such as hemi-cellulose and then in a second stage the material that is more difficult to depolymerise e.g. cellulose, is depolymerised using a more severe hydrolytic treatment. The products of the first and second stages include sugar solutions and organic acids, aldehydes. The monosaccharides are subjected to fermentation to produce ethanol and the beer resulting from the fermentation may then be subjected to rectification to produce ethanol of commercial grade. US-A-4384897 sets out to provide improvements in more efficient washing of solids, the use of co-current washing or countercurrent washing of solids and proposes the use of ferric and/or aluminium [aluminum] ions as